

## **South Caucasus Abstract**

### **“Resolution in the South Caucasus: A Study of People, Places and Conflict in Armenia, Azerbaijan and a Community in Georgia”**

#### **Grant Proposal:**

This proposed Fulbright-Hays Group Project Grant is for K-12 educators to study/travel in the region of the Caucasus. We propose to study the land, people, history, culture, institutions, and geopolitics of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. A particular focus of interest is the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh land dispute with historical similarities to land disputes encountered within the state of Montana and the twelve recognized American Indian tribes residing here. Montana state law mandates “Indian Education for All” across its curriculum K-12. Participants will visit urban and rural areas within the Transcaucasia to interact, and discuss similar conflicts between specifically targeted demographic areas. This will allow for interexchange of ideas and use of the knowledge gained incorporating new curricula for a more holistic/global study of conflict resolution in multiple aspects of daily life around the world. The intent of the Group Project is to identify specific areas that breed “conflict” and develop lessons that incorporate “conflict resolution” and reconciliation.

#### **Eligible Participants:**

The educators participating must meet the following requirements to be considered for the Group Program.

- Currently teaching K-12, within the State of Montana.
- University or college levels personnel having direct contact with developing appropriate curriculum taught within the above mentioned specific Montana mandates.
- Applicants must prove on-going interest pursuing state mandated “Indian Education for All” by showing how they incorporate it in the curriculum they currently teach.
- Selected participants will be of multiple grade levels being represented (K-12).
- Applicant would bring/present a sample lesson pertaining to “conflict resolution” that deals with an American even/aspect that is taught within Montana curriculum
- Participants will implement a lesson dealing with “conflict resolution” as a post Group Project follow-up based on travel experiences
- Lessons will be published and made available across Montana school systems through the OPI in Helena. The intent would be to accumulate “conflict resolution” lessons that could coordinate from levels K-12

#### **Studies and Travel within the Transcaucasia:**

Ideally, the Group Participants will spend six weeks, 10 to 14 days in each of the countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia the summer of 2012. The importance of travel within each country is to gain understanding of the area in general including: geography, architectural similarity, ethnic regional likenesses (food, music, dress, shops, roadways, transport, etc.)

In addition, of great importance would be specifics from above in the following areas:

- lectures at universities, cultural centers, museums, political institutions, etc.
- visits to important geographical, historical, cultural, political, and economic sites
- discussions with educators regarding methods and curricula at all levels of education
- presentation of a lesson plan to Armenian teachers about the U.S. or Montana
- a home stay of one or two days